



# Advisory Neighborhood Commission 2A

*“Serving the Foggy Bottom and West End communities of Washington, D.C.”*

## Regular Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 17th, 2021; 7:00 p.m.

Online via Zoom

### Call to Order

Chair Jeri Epstein (06) called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm. Commissioners Yannik Omictin (01), Joel Causey (02), Trupti Patel (03), Donna Barbisch (04), and Adam Friend (07) were present.

### Adoption of the Agenda

Chair Epstein made a motion to adopt the ANC’s meeting agenda. Commissioner Causey seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

### Adoption of Past Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Barbisch made a motion to adopt the ANC’s regular February 2021 meeting minutes. Commissioner Omictin seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

### Community Forum

#### Report from the Executive Office of the Mayor

Joe Florio, a Ward 2 representative for the Mayor’s Office of Community Relations and Services (MOCRS), gave updates from the Mayor’s Office.

#### Report from the Metropolitan Police Department’s PSA 207

Lieutenant Bredet Williams, a representative for the Metropolitan Police Department’s (MPD) Second District, gave an overview of the recent crime statistics for the neighborhood.

#### Report from the Office of Ward 2 Councilmember Brooke Pinto

Councilmember Brooke Pinto gave an update from her office.

### Commissioner Updates

Commissioners Patel, Causey, Barbisch, and Omictin gave commissioner updates.

Commissioner Omictin made a motion to approve the creation of the ANC’s Humanitarian Grants Special Committee. Commissioner Patel seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

### Announcements and Public Comments

A teacher at School Without Walls High School; a student at GW; and John George, the President of the Foggy Bottom Association (FBA), gave announcements and public comments.

### **General Agenda**

#### **Update from GW Regarding the Proposed Demolition of the Building at 837 22nd Street NW**

Kevin Days, GW's Director of Community Relations, gave an update regarding the proposed demolition of the building at 837 22nd Street NW.

### **Community Forum (Continued)**

#### **Report from Ward 2 State Board of Education Member Allister Chang**

Allister Chang, the Ward 2 member of the State Board of Education (SBOE), gave an update regarding the work of the board.

### **General Agenda (Continued)**

#### **Discussion Regarding the Current Conditions of Francis Field and the Francis Dog Park**

Commissioners and meeting attendees engaged in a discussion regarding the current conditions of Francis Field and the Francis dog park.

Commissioner Causey made a motion to have the matter be discussed by the ANC's Strategic Planning and Coordination Committee. Commissioner Friend seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0).

### **Matters Before the National Capital Planning Commission**

#### **National Capital Planning Commission Application for the Federal Reserve Board's Proposal to Renovate and Expand the Eccles Building and the Federal Reserve Board-East Building at 2061 Constitution Avenue NW and 1951 Constitution Avenue NW**

Commissioner Omictin made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Causey seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2A supports the National Capital Planning Commission application for the Federal Reserve Board's proposal to renovate and expand the Eccles Building and the Federal Reserve Board-East Building at 2061 Constitution Avenue NW and 1951 Constitution Avenue NW.

### **Matters Before the Board of Zoning Adjustment**

Board of Zoning Adjustment Application by 1730 Pennsylvania Avenue, LP for a Special Exception from the Penthouse Wall Enclosure Requirements and for an Area Variance from the Penthouse Use Restrictions in Order to Convert Existing Mechanical Penthouse Space to Habitable Penthouse Space and to Construct a Permanent Penthouse Canopy to an Existing Office Building at 1730 Pennsylvania Avenue NW

Chair Epstein made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Causey seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2A supports the Board of Zoning Adjustment application for 1730 Pennsylvania Avenue NW.

**Matters Before the Public Space Committee**

Public Space Application for Streetscape Improvements, Including Sidewalk Paving, Installation of Handrails, Installation of an ADA Ramp, and Installation of Bollards, at the Intersection of M Street and 25th Street NW

Commissioner Causey made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Chair Epstein seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2A supports the public space application for streetscape improvements at the intersection of M Street and 25th Street NW.

Public Space Application by the Golden Triangle BID for the Installation of a Temporary Sculpture at the Intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and 21st Street NW

Chair Epstein made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Friend seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2A supports the Golden Triangle BID's public space application for the installation of a temporary sculpture at the intersection of Pennsylvania Avenue and 21st Street NW.

**Matters Before the Department of Consumer and Regulatory Affairs**

Consideration of a Resolution Regarding a Request for an After-Hours Permit as Part of the 2025 M Street NW Construction Project

Chair Epstein gave an update regarding this matter.

*The Commission did not take any action regarding this matter.*

**Matters Before the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority**

## Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Proposed Cuts to Metrobus and Metrorail Service

Commissioner Omicini made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Patel seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) has proposed an FY 2022 budget with significant system-wide cuts and is soliciting feedback from the general public and local governments,

WHEREAS, ANC 2A passed a resolution, “RE: The Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority’s Draft FY 2021 Budget and Associated Bus Service Change Proposals” on February 19, 2020, which expressed, among other points:

- The ANC’s conditional support for the conversion of 30N and 30S buses to 31/33 and 32/36 service,
- The ANC’s advocacy for the use of the D6 bus route to replace some of the capabilities of the now-eliminated D5 route, and

WHEREAS, in light of around \$1.4 billion in federal funding for DC-area transit authorities, WMATA has stated that many of the drastic cuts it had proposed may be avoided.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that:

- ANC 2A supports the proposed changes to the 30N/30S bus line only if the following conditions are met to create viable solutions to transport passengers rapidly across downtown and keep crosstown passengers safe in evening hours:
  - Long headways and the elimination of one-seat rides along this route are an unsafe combination for workers, especially women and LGBTQ+ riders, forced to wait outside while traveling late into the evening. Maintaining full 30N and 30S service during late night hours, improving headways on the 31/33 and 32/36 bus lines, preserving service beyond midnight after January 2022, and creating managed timed transfers between 31/33 and 32/36 service should be explored as solutions for this corridor.
- ANC 2A opposes the elimination of the D6 bus line starting in January 2022. Hospital workers and patients, especially south of Dupont Circle and east of the White House, depend on continuous service along the D6 route to reach Sibley Memorial Hospital and MedStar Georgetown University Hospital. Without direct service to these hospitals, passengers would either face multiple inconvenient transfers across lines with long headways or opt for automobile travel if they can. Passengers to MedStar Georgetown University Hospital would need to walk half a mile from the 36th Street and Reservoir Road NW bus stop to reach their destination. With the previous elimination of the D5 bus line, ending D6 service, which served as an alternative to the D5, would also leave commuters traveling

into the downtown employment core from the Palisades or Foxhall with very few options other than automobiles.

- ANC 2A strongly urges WMATA to quickly publish equity analyses of individual bus routes, showing the extent to which major service changes impact marginalized communities, as required under WMATA’s Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Title VI obligations. Normally, WMATA publishes a general equity analysis of all route changes in a given year and an analysis of select routes. Many route change proposals this year undoubtedly have disproportionate impacts on Black and other vulnerable communities, as expressed in this resolution and in others from ANCs across the city, and the ANC believes it is in the best interest of all DC residents to have access to all of the equity analyses.
- ANC 2A strongly urges WMATA’s Board of Directors to re-open the public comment period when the board has calculated new service changes, taking into account increased federal funding from the American Rescue Plan Act.

### **Matters Before the DC Council**

#### **Consideration of a Resolution Regarding DC Council Bill B24-0070 – the “Senior Citizen Real Property Tax Relief Amendment Act of 2021”**

Chair Epstein made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Patel seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, as a result of the economic fallout from the coronavirus pandemic, the homelessness rate in DC is expected to spike,

WHEREAS, the majority of ANC 2A’s senior population is on fixed incomes such as social security and/or pensions that have not kept up with the rate of inflation or could not have taken into account something such as a pandemic,

WHEREAS, the seniors of DC have faced unprecedented hardships, including:

- a. severe limitations in transportation options,
- b. increased prices for food and basic goods, and
- c. having to choose between multiple necessities due to not being able to afford it all,

WHEREAS, these challenges exacerbate the anxiety of becoming unhoused among seniors who are unable to meet their property tax payments, and

WHEREAS, the Senior Citizen Real Property Tax Relief Amendment of 2021 would provide specific and targeted relief that would allow seniors to continue to live and engage in the communities they call home.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A supports the passage and funding of the Senior Citizen Real Property Tax Relief Amendment of 2021 in order to address the urgent plight of keeping seniors safely housed.

**Matters Before the Department of Human Services**

**Consideration of a Resolution Regarding Increasing the Stock of PEP-V Hotel Units**

Commissioner Omictin made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Patel seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

WHEREAS, unhoused people are disproportionately affected by COVID-19, compared to the overall population, with over 500 having tested positive out of around 9,000 total unhoused people,

WHEREAS, hundreds of unhoused residents reside in tent encampments across DC,

WHEREAS, living chronically in tent encampments results in a condition called “weathering” through which unhoused residents’ biological age increases by between 10 and 20 years,

WHEREAS, the federal government resolved on January 21, 2021 to fund 100% of costs associated with the “safe opening and operation of...non-congregate shelters” until September 30, 2021, leaving the DC government to pay for some staffing costs for additional case management services,

WHEREAS, the availability of permanent supportive housing vouchers for this fiscal year is dwindling, leaving unhoused residents with few options other than remaining on the street until a new budget is passed,

WHEREAS, most of the available Pandemic Emergency Program for Medically Vulnerable Individuals (PEP-V) slots are full at this time, and the number of people on the waiting list is around the same as the number of slots in all PEP-V facilities, and

WHEREAS, DC hotels have been struggling to find revenue streams and fill rooms.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that ANC 2A calls on the Department of Human Services to avidly explore the opening of additional PEP-V facilities as soon as possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that ANC 2A calls on the Department of Human Services to lower the age of eligibility for entry into PEP-V housing to at least 45 years of age, if not eliminating the age requirement entirely, bearing in mind the heightened biological age of unhoused people writ-large.

**Matters Before the Alcoholic Beverage Regulation Administration**

Tazza Café – Application for a New Retailer’s Class “D” Restaurant License at 600 New Hampshire Avenue NW

Commissioner Barbisch made a motion to adopt a proposed resolution regarding the matter. Commissioner Causey seconded the motion, which was voted on and passed (VOTES: 6-0-0). The resolution reads as follows:

ANC 2A supports Tazza Café’s application for a new Retailer’s Class “D” Restaurant license at 600 New Hampshire Avenue NW.

**Adjournment**

Chair Epstein adjourned the meeting at 10:55 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Yannik Omictin', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Yannik Omictin  
Secretary, ANC 2A01